

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
MIL. INTEL. DIV.

3-1

MAR 11

2048-182

1932

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January 31, 1932.

WAR DEPARTMENT

4492

Subject: Current Events for the month of January, 1932.

To: A. C. of S., G-2.

1. The incorporation of the conscripts of the Class of 1911 of the Army and Navy was initiated on the 2nd of January.
2. On the 4th of January the President of the Provisional Government signed a decree appointing the Justices of the Peace of the Federal Capital for the year 1932. The persons appointed to the different minor courts were selected from amongst the candidates proposed to the Ministry of Justice by the Civil Court.
3. On January 6th the Spanish training ship "Juan Sebastian Elcano" left Buenos Aires for Bahia Blanca.
4. By decree of the Provisional Government on the 8th of January Captain Ricardo Camino of the Navy was appointed Maritime Prefect General to replace Vice-Admiral Julian Irizar who has retired.
5. On January 11th Dr. Adolfo Bioy, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, took over the Ministry of Justice and Instruction, left vacant by the resignation of Dr. Guillermo Rothe. Dr. Bioy will continue at the head of this Ministry seconded by the Sub-Secretary Sr. Alemandri.
6. The Federal Commissioner of the Province of Santa Fe, Dr. Alberto Arancibia Rodriguez, resigned his post on the 11th of January, in view of the fact that he has been elected National Senator for the province of San Luis.
7. On January 12th the authorities of the Penitentiary of Mercedes discovered a plan for the escape of prisoners, this being the sixth attempt of the kind frustrated in the establishment during the last six months.
8. By a decree of the Provisional Government on the 12th of January the "Legion Civica Argentina" was given judicial standing.

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January 31, 1932

9. On January 12th, the Pan American Airways here announced a 20% reduction in the rates over their Atlantic Coast service between Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. Passengers purchasing round trip passages will be conceded an additional 10% reduction.
10. By the s/s "Southern Cross" on January 13th, Mr. Thomas Ballagh, the recently appointed United States Automotive Trade Commissioner arrived in Buenos Aires.
11. On January 15th, the first motorless aeroplane to arrive in Argentina was placed on exhibition by the Argentine Aviation Club.
12. The whaler Diaz of the Compañia Argentina de Pesca, left the South Basin bound for the South Orkneys on January 15th, taking on board the scientific commission who will relieve those at present on duty in the meteorological observatory installed in the islands by the Ministry of Agriculture.
13. On January 15th it was announced that the Minister of the Interior had authorized the Union Telefonica to open telephone communications with Portugal.
14. The Bank of the Nation withdrew \$1,188,149 gold pesos from the Conversion Office on January 16th for the payment of interest on the external debt.
15. On January 17th the Italian newspaper "La Patria degli Italiani" which was forced to close down after a record of over half a century in local journalism reappeared again under the name of "La Nuova Patria". It has been transformed from a daily into a weekly.
16. On January 18th the first edition of the new Austrian paper "Austria Press" was published in Buenos Aires. The feature of this first edition is a concise but informative article, printed in both German and Spanish on the Austrian Republic of today.
17. On January 18th the President of the Provisional Government signed a decree convening the electoral colleges for the election of President and Vice-President of the Nation on January 30th.
18. By a decree of the Ministry of Marine on January 18th, Captain Sadi E. Bonnet was designated Commander of the new submarine "Santa Fe" of the Argentine Navy built in the Tosi shipyards at Taranto, Italy.

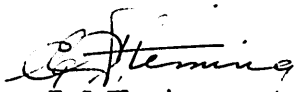
Current Events,
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19. On January 18th it was announced that \$1,500,000 pesos of the funds accruing from the surtax on naphtha would be spent by the Provisional Government in the purchase of National bonds to be entrusted to the Banco de la Nación, the interest to be added to the naphtha fund. This measure has been adopted so that the fund may not remain idle.

20. The Provisional Government issued a decree on January 20th accepting the resignation of the Federal Commissioner in Salta, Dr. Erasmo Martinez, who has been elected National Deputy.

21. Captain Andrés Laprade of the Navy who has completed his tour of duty as Chief of the Argentine Naval Mission in the United States, reported to the Minister of Marine on January 20th.

22. On January 24th Mr. C. Taylor, representative for the Comper Aircraft Company of England, gave a flying demonstration at Morón to show the ability of the first Comper "Swift" machine imported into this country.


E.C. Fleming,
Captain, A.G.S.,
Military Attache.

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APR 5

2048-182

1932

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February 29, 1932 ^{WAR DEPARTMENT}

4518

Subject: Current Events for the month of February, 1932.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

1. On February 1st, Dr. Emir Mercader, formerly a prominent Irigoyenist party leader and Sr. Orestes Casanello, an ex-police officer detailed to be Irigoyen's personal bodyguard during his presidency, arrived in Montevideo after having escaped from Ushuaia where they had been imprisoned by order of the Provisional Government.
2. On February 2nd it was announced by the shipping companies that there would be an increase in passenger rates from the River Plate to Europe. The increase is in the nature of a readjustment between the companies due to the fact that since the departure of Great Britain from the gold standard, the companies have been at a disadvantage on the basis of exchange.
3. The demobilization of the conscripts of the military class of 1910 commenced on February 2nd.
4. The transport "Chaco" sailed for Europe on February 10th with 104 persons on board who were deported by the Provisional Government. The "Chaco" also carried the future crews of the submarines being built in Italy for the Argentine Navy.
5. On February 15th telephone communication was inaugurated between the city of Barcelona, Spain and Buenos Aires, Argentina.
6. The President of the Provisional Government signed a decree on February 15th nominating Dr. David Uriburu, the ex-sub-prefect of police, as Inspector General of Consulates.
7. On February 15th the legislative assembly, representing the Federal Capital and the fourteen provinces, formally proclaimed General Agustin P. Justo and Dr. Julio A. Roca, President and Vice-President of the Republic respectively.

Current Events,
February 29, 1932.

8. By decree of the Provisional Government, on February 17th, General Agustin P. Justo was put on the retired list of the Army, instead of figuring in "disponibilidad" as formerly.

9. On February 20th the new President and Vice President of the Republic were sworn into office and the Revolutionary era ended.

10. On February 22nd the Bank of the Nation under authority of a decree issued by the Provisional Government previous to the transference of power, withdrew \$1,266,940 gold from the Conversion Office and shipped this amount to the United States for payment of the external debt. At the same time it was announced that no further extractions would be made for the time being.

11. On February 23rd by decree of the President of the Nation, General Agustin Justo, the ex-President of the Provisional Government, General Jose Uriburu, has been granted leave of absence for a period of two years.

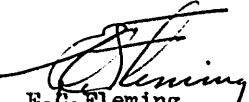
12. The new Cabinet of the Republic met on February 22nd and by a majority vote it was decided to raise the state of siege.

13. The transport "Pampa" left Ushuaia for Buenos Aires on February 23rd with 343 civilian political prisoners aboard, 5 officers and 104 non-commissioned officers.

14. The mercantile training ship the s.s. "California State" arrived in Buenos Aires on February 23rd on a five months cruise from San Francisco, California.

15. By decree of the Government, daylight saving in Buenos Aires ended on February 29th.

16. A communistic meeting was held on February 28th in Plaza Once, but was dispersed by the police. There were no serious consequences, a police corporal and four policemen suffering slight injuries as a result of the stone-throwing during the attempts to dissolve the gathering.


E.C. Fleming,
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M. L. INTEL. DIV.

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March 31, 1932. WAR DEPARTMENT

4543

Subject: Current Events for the month of March, 1932.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

1. On March 1st telephone service was inaugurated between the Union Telefonica, Buenos Aires, and the Mutual Telephone Company of Hawaii.

2. It was announced on March 1st that the post of Director General of the Government Oil Fields had been offered to the Engineer Ricardo Silveyra, who accepted. Sr. Silveyra was Under-Secretary for the Interior during General Uriburu's Government.

3. On March 2nd it was announced that Sr. Luis Lamas had been designated President of the Bank of the Nation, and Sr. Alejandro E. Bunge, Director of the Conversion Office.

4. Telephone lines between Buenos Aires and La Plata were intentionally cut on March 4th. This is one of a series of sabotage on the lines of the Union Telefonica. It is believed that it is the work of dismissed employees.

5. Commercial telephone service between Argentina and Rumania was inaugurated on March 7th by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Carlos Saavedra Lamas, who spoke with the Minister of this country in Bucharest, Sr. Ricardo Oliveras.

6. The members of the Council of the British Chamber of Commerce visited the President of the Republic on March 11th. The text of the message read to the President emphasized trade reciprocity and the need for a closer understanding between the two nations.

7. The inauguration of the tenth grain elevator built by the Asociacion de Cooperativas Argentinas took place at Firmat in the province of Santa Fe on March 13th.

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8. The inaugural meeting took place on March 14th of the Commission ordered by decree of the President to study the problem in connection with Argentina's unemployed.

9. In view of the numerous assaults of taxi-drivers in this city, the Municipality issued a decree on March 14th by which drivers are entitled to require the presentation of their passengers identity documents between the hours of 11.- p.m. and 5.- a.m. either before starting the journey or during its course.

10. By decree of the Minister of the Interior on March 15th, the ex-Judge Advocate General of War and Marine, Dr. Carlos Risso Dominguez, was appointed Director General of Posts and Telegraphs. He replaces Lieut.Colonel Manuel Thorne who has resigned.

11. On March 19th the Argentine Ambassador to France, Dr. Tomas A. Le Breton, left Buenos Aires to resume his duties in Paris. In a statement to the Press prior to his departure Dr. Le Breton said that he intended to pay special attention to the problems in connection with the placing of Argentine cereals on the market.

12. On March 21st the largest shipment of grapes ever exported from the Argentine Republic left for New York on the steamer "Southern Prince". The Minister of Agriculture, Dr. A. de Tomaso, inspected the record consignment, which consisted of some 70,000 boxes.

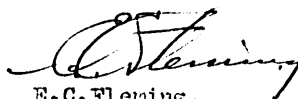
13. On March 21st the Minister of Finance announced that telegraphic instructions had been given to the Argentine Embassy in London to place at the disposition of the respective bankers the sum of £776,102 sterling and 1,765,673,81 Francs, as payment of interest on the external loan.

14. On March 30th the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Agriculture spoke by telephone to the Argentine Ambassador in London. The object of their conversations was the negotiations being carried on at present for the holding of a conference between Great Britain, France, Italy and Germany regarding the economic situation of the countries of the Danube. The Argentine Government desired to be informed as to the different aspects of the Conference and the probability of this country's production being effected, especially cereals. Although the

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exact conversation is not known, it is believed that the Argentine Ambassador, Dr. Malbran, received definite instructions to negotiate to avoid any such possibility.



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WAR DEPARTMENT

May 6, 1932

4566

Subject: Current Events for the Month of April, 1932.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

1. By a decree of the Ministry of the Interior issued on April 1st, the concession for the airmail from Bahia Blanca to Rio Gallegos which is held by the Direction of Civil Aeronautics and which lapsed on March 31st, was extended to May 31, 1932.

2. On April 9th, the training-ship "Sarmiento" commanded by Captain Benito Sueyro, left Buenos Aires on its 32nd voyage of instruction. It is understood that for economical reasons the Government has decided this year to carry out the training of the cadets in Argentine waters, along the South Atlantic coast.

3. On April 9th it was announced that the Government had accepted the resignation of Sr. Juan J. Mandin Schaffer, Director of the Civil Aeronautical Department, and that Sr. Jorge Claypole would be appointed interventor in that department.

4. Under the auspices of the Argentine Chamber of Commerce, a National Conference to treat on commercial matters was inaugurated on April 11th. The session was attended by a large number of delegates representing chambers of commerce, rural societies, university institutes and other institutions, and was inaugurated in the presence of the Ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs.

5. By a decree issued on April 12th through the Ministry of Public Works, the Government accepted the resignation of Ing. Manuel F. Castello, the Director General of Railways. Ing. Carlos Ramallo has been appointed to the vacant post.

6. On April 20th, Sr. Leopoldo Lugones, the former Chief of the Political Section of the Police Department, returned to Buenos Aires from Europe, to answer the charges

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which have been brought up against him regarding the disappearance of a large number of dossiers from the police files during his administration.

7. A fatal accident occurred on April 25th at El Palomar when a plane stalled in landing. The accident happened at the beginning of the aviation classes when Sergeant Diaz, the pilot, was taking up one of the learners. The former was killed, while the latter sustained serious injuries. The destroyed plane was an Avro-Gospor, 110 H.P.

8. On April 27th, aboard the "Alcantara", a delegation of eight Argentine University men left Buenos Aires to visit the Oxford and Cambridge Universities. The invitation which was issued by a committee presided over by Sir Malcolm Robertson, former Ambassador to Argentina, is a sequel to the visit of the Oxford and Cambridge men to Argentina in August and September of last year.

9. The first laws to be passed by the present Congress were issued on April 27th and refer to subsidies granted to the victims of the recent volcanic eruptions in the Andes. \$50,000 pesos are to be distributed in the territory of La Pampa, and \$10,000 in Mendoza.

10. By a decree of the Ministry of Marine on April 28th, Captain Carlos A. Brafia was appointed General Maritime Prefect. Captain Brafia will substitute Captain Ricardo Camino, who retired.

11. An Argentine Mission for the purpose of fostering trade between Argentina and the Far East left Buenos Aires on April 6th aboard the Buenos Aires Maru. The Mission is carrying a collection of Argentine products to show to the interested merchants and business people in Japan.

12. By decree of General Justo and his Cabinet, on April 29th, it was established that full honors be accorded throughout the country to the late Lieut. General Jose F. Uriburu. The day the funeral takes place has been declared a holiday.

13. By reason of the death of Ing. Emilio Olmos, Governor of the Province of Cordoba, on April 29th, the Vice-

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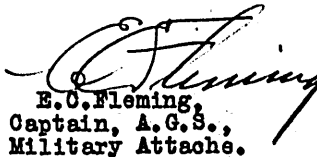
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April, 1932.

Governor, Dr. Pedro J. Frias, has now become the constitutional Governor of that Province.

14. By decree of the Ministry of the Interior, the period of extraordinary session of the National Congress was declared terminated on April 30th.

15. Two important student disorders in the University of La Plata have been recorded during the month of April. In both cases it has been necessary for the police to intervene. The uprising by the students is directed against the present authorities of the University.

16. A postal convention between France and Argentina was signed on April 23rd by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Saavedra Lamas, and the French Ambassador to Argentina, M. Clinchant, regulating the dispatching of printed matter between the two countries.


E.O. Fleming,
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OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
M.L. INTEL. DIV.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

June 6, 1932.

4577

Subject: Current Events for the month of May, 1932.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

RECEIVED 6/2 W. D. JUL 8 1932

1. On May 1st the new Governor of Salta, Sr. D. Avelino Aracoz, was sworn into office.
2. On May 2nd, Congress inaugurated its period of ordinary sessions, with the usual ceremony; the President reading a message relating to the work his Government has performed since it took office.
3. The American Delegation which came to Buenos Aires for the purpose of studying the cost of production of casein and linseed, took formal leave of the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. de Tomaso, on May 3rd.
4. On May 8th, the Central Argentine Railway opened to public service a new bridge on the Rio Cuarto to Rio Tercero Branch (Province of Cordoba) between Gigena and Elena stations. Tests on the bridge were made with the simultaneous running of two engines with a total dead weight of 242,088 kilos.
5. On May 10th it was announced that the Direction of Posts and Telegraphs has been authorized to issue a special set of stamps for use on correspondence sent to Europe by the Graf Zeppelin. The stamps will have a face value of 5, 18 and 90 cents, and the total value of the issue will be \$100,000.
6. On May 10th, Dr. Angel Gallardo was elected Rector of the University of Buenos Aires by the unanimous vote of the councillors.
7. By a decree issued through the Ministry of Agriculture on May 11th, Dr. Eduardo J. Bullrich, President of the National Labor Department, was appointed President of the "Commission for Relief of the Unemployed".
8. A record for acrobatic flying was established on May 12th by Lieutenant Martin R. Cairo with a Devoitine-plane built in the Cordoba factory. Lieut. Cairo

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accomplished 328 loops, 89 "Immelman turns" and 30 "tonneaux" in a single flight which lasted three hours. On the same day, a new model of tourist machine - A F 2, was also tried at the factory with satisfactory results, a maximum speed of 202 kilometers per hour being achieved.

9. In honor of the 121st Anniversary of the Independence of Paraguay, the Minister of Marine in Argentina on May 12th ordered the gun-boat Parana, under the command of Captain Marcos Savon, to travel to Asunción to represent Argentina at this celebration.

10. On May 12th, Dr. Federico Cantoni and Sr. Vicente Cattani, Governor and Vice-Governor of the Province of San Juan, were sworn into office.

11. On the 15th of May the "Centro de Aviación Civil" held an airplane contest for the Ing. Hector A. Fernandez trophy donated by the Vice-President of the "Centro de Aviación".

12. On May 16th the first mails from Chile, since the suspension of the Transandine Railway, arrived in Buenos Aires.

✓13. By decree of the President of the Republic on May 17th, it has been determined that the cruiser "Buenos Aires" will be withdrawn from service and disarmed at the Rio Santiago Base. The "Buenos Aires" has a record of over 35 years service.


14. In view of the charges of irregular acts and proceedings which have come to his knowledge, the Minister of Finance issued a decree on May 19th intervening the Buenos Aires Customs House.

15. By decree of May 20th, the Executive Power annulled a former decree which granted a 50% discount in Customs duties on certain woods imported from Finland.

✓16. On May 27th the funeral of the late Lieut. General Jose F. Uriburu took place. The funeral was one of the most impressive the country has ever witnessed, the deceased being granted the fullest military honors accorded to the supreme commander of all the land and sea forces of the Nation.

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✓17. On May 29th the Rosario Police arrested two wellknown communists - Antonio Albornoz and Antonio Rojas accused of engaging in seditious propaganda among the conscripts of the 12th Infantry Regiment.


E.C. Fleming,
Captain, A.G.S.,
Military Attaché,

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3.1

AUG 6

2048-182

1932

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July 14, 1932. WAR DEPARTMENT

4592

Subject: Current Events for the month of June, 1932.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

1. On June 4th, Lieutenant Pablo C. Passio of the Parana aeroplane base, established a new world's record for looping the loop in a military plane. Lieut. Passio more than doubled the previous record set up a short time ago by Lieut. Cairo, who made 328 loops. The new record is 682, to which the aviator added 50 "Immelman Turns" and 7 "tonneaux." The plane used was a Dewoitine machine built in the Military Factory in Cordoba, using national petrol, for which a supplementary tank was carried.
2. By decree of the Ministry of War on June 9th, Captain Pedro Castex Lainfor was appointed Director of the School of Aviation at El Palomar. Captain Lainfor has recently returned to Buenos Aires after a tour of the United States, Great Britain and France, as a member of the Argentine Air Purchasing Mission. (See Dispatch 4283).
3. On June 9th, the Senate unanimously approved the bill passed by the House creating an interparliamentary committee to study measures to alleviate the economic situation of the country, especially with regard to unemployment, the cost of living, and defence of Argentine produce.
4. On June 10th, Captain Juan Maria Gomez of the Argentine Navy, presented his resignation as Governor of the Territory of Tierra del Fuego. Sr. Hugo Rodriguez has been appointed in his stead.
5. On June 11th, direct wireless communication with Switzerland was inaugurated by Transradio Internacional, which is the first company in Buenos Aires to establish this service. The service will be maintained by means of the company's transmitting station at Monte Grande and the Radio Suisse installations at Geneva.
6. In view of the fact that the present Argentine Minister to Finland and Sweden, Dr. Ruiz de los Llanos has

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decided to retire, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on June 13th that his post would be suppressed, and the work taken over by the Legation to Denmark and Norway.

7. Following a telephonic conversation held on June 14th by Drs. Pablo Torello and Roque Suarez with the ex-President of the Republic, Dr. Marcelo Alvear, it was announced that the latter intends to return to this country about July 21st to take active participation in politics.

8. It was published on June 15th that oil had been discovered at Malargue in the Province of Mendoza. The finding is the result of the recent Andean volcanic eruptions which have greatly affected that area. It is believed that the petrol, which is of a good quality, is to be found over a large section.

9. On June 18th, the Argentine military aviation pilots, Lieut. Martin Cairo and Lieut. Justo Ossorio Arana, successfully completed an air tour over the fourteen provinces in the record flying time of 24 hours, 30 minutes. The total time employed in the journey was 44 hours, 10 minutes, during which they traversed 3,548 kilometres. The plane used was a "Prototype A.E.C.2" constructed in the Military Aviation Factory at Cordoba.

10. From June 20th to June 28th, 2,882 conscripts of the Argentine Army were discharged. This, as previously mentioned, has been done in order to balance the War Department Budget for the current year.

11. On June 20th, the training-ship "Sarmiento" left Buenos Aires for Capetown, thus initiating the second half of its thirty-second voyage of instruction.

12. By decree of the Executive Power, on June 22nd, Dr. Roberto Repetto was chosen President of the National Supreme Court to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Figueroa Alcorta.

13. On June 25th, by decree of the Ministry of the Interior, a Registry Office was established for the civilian personnel of the Nation's administration. The Registry

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Office was created to enforce the recent decree which stated that no civilian employee may hold more than one Government post at one time. (See Report No. 4568).

14. On June 27th, Dr. Luis Lamas, President of the Bank of the Nation, presented his resignation because of ill health. His post will be filled "ad interim" by Sr. Jorge A. Santamarina, the vice President of the Bank.

15. On June 27th, the Ministry of Marine announced a substantial tariff reduction in the commercial service of the national transport ships to Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. The object of these reductions is to help in building up the southern regions. Transport service will also be had to distant points which are not touched by the private companies.

16. On June 30th a 24-hour strike was declared by the Federacion Obrera Maritima (Federation of Maritime Workmen) as a protest against the regulations obliging all port employees to carry a special identification card.

Victoria L. Julia
Clerk,
Office of Military Attache.